open sale of wheat and rice is undertaken, *inter alia*, to exert a sobering influence on the market prices without jeopardising the Public Distribution System. Keeping in view the wide gap in the market prices *vis-a-vis* open sale prices notified by the Government; to neutralise the freight element paid by FCI in moving wheat from procuring areas to consuming areas; to reduce the subsidy burden on open sale, and to discourage the traders to make undue profit; the Government decided to increase the open sale prices of wheat with effect from 4.2.97. List of Centre-wise prices is annexed as statement (*See* below). The Central Issue prices of wheat and rice for PDS were last revised with effect from 1.2.94. No decsion has been taken yet to increase the CIP of PDS.

(c) The production of rice came down from 81.16 million tonnes in 1994-95 to 79.45 million tonnes in 1995-96. Similarly, the production of wheat has also come down from 65.77 million tonnes in 1994-95 to 62.62 million tonnes in 1996-97. While procurement of rice during 1996-97 has been a little higher than that of the previous year, the procurement of wheat has been 4.1 million tonnes lower than that of the previous year. Therefore, Government decided to import upto 2.00 million tonnes of wheat during 1996-97 to augment availability in the country with a view to controlling the open market prices.

(d) The State Trading Corporation of India have already contracted for import of wheat upto 16.75 lakh tonnes as per details given below:—

Country	Contracted Qty. (in lakh tonnes)	Price (US $ per tonnes)
Australia	10.00	148 FOB
	3.25	156 FOB
Canada	2.50	152.50 FOB
Argentina	1.00	173 (C & F)
	16.75	

Statement

Open Sale Prices of Wheat at various Centres effective from 4.2.1997.

Sl. No.	Name of the Major Centre	Rate Rs./ per MT
1.	Guwahati	7500
2.	Mumbai	7400
3.	Nagpur	7400
4.	Indore	7200
5.	Gwalior	6000
6.	Raipur	7400
7.	Ahmedabad	7300
8.	Surat	7300
9.	Cuttack	7400
10.	Bhubaneshwar	7400
11.	Patna	6500
12.	Ranchi	7000
13.	Calcutta	7400
14.	Siliguri	7400
15.	Delhi	5000
16.	Chandigarh	4900
17.	Lucknow	5400
18.	Kanpur	5400
19.	Varanasi	6000
20.	Bareilly	5000
21.	Madras	7800
22.	Coimbatore	7800
23.	Madurai	7800
24.	Cochin	7900
25.	Trivandrum	7900
26.	Hyderabad	7500
27.	Vishakapatnam	7500
28.	Bangalore	7700
29.	Mysore	7700
30.	Belgaum	7700
31.	Jaipur	5200
32.	Shimla	5031
33.	Jammu	5200
34.	Srinagar	5300

In case of open sale at Depots at other centres, the rate fixed for nearest major centre shall apply.

बिहार में चीनी उद्योगों/मिलों की स्थापना

170. **श्री रामगोपाल यादव:** क्या खाद्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार वित्तीय वर्ष 1997-98 में बिहार में चीनी उद्योगों/मिलों की स्थापना करने पर विचार कर

रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो ऐसी कितनी मिलों की स्थापना की जाएगी और तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण है?

खाद्य मंत्री तथा नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री (श्री देवेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव): (क) से (ग) केन्द्र सरकार देश के किसी भी भाग में चीनी मिलें स्थापित नहीं करती। तथापि, यह नई चीनी मिलें लगाने के लिए आशय पत्र/औद्योगिक लाइसेंस प्रदान करती है। वित्तीय वर्ष 1996-97 (31.1.97 तक), के दौरान बिहार राज्य में नई चीनी मिलें स्थापित करने के लिए उद्योग मंत्रालय द्वारा 6 आशय पत्र जारी किए गए हैं।

Inappropriate price to farmers by FCI in Madhya Pradesh for "Swarna Dhan"

171. SHRI LAKKHIRAM AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether rice obtained from "Swarna Dhan" is purchased by rice mills in Chattisgarh of Madhya Pradesh as a fine quality and appropriate prices is paid to the farmers;

(b) whether the same quality of rice is categorised as coarse quality by the Food Corporation of India and inappropriate price is paid to the farmers which results in loss to them;

(c) if so, reasons thereof; and

(d) steps proposed to be taken to pay appropriate price for the rice to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (d) The procurement of paddy/rice under Minimum Support Price (MSP) is made in accordance with the Group/ classification of paddy/rice based on the length/breadth ratio since Marketing season 1979-80 as per the recommendation of the Balasubramaniam Committee. Accordingly, paddy/rice varieties are classified in superfine, fine and common group.

The Swarna Dhan variety has not been classified by the Government of India for the State of Madhya Pradesh. However, the Food Corporation of India is procuring Swarna Dhan variety in Madhya Pradesh under common group on the basis of length/breadth ratio and is paid for accordingly. The State Government is paying Rs. 15/- per quintal as bonus over and above the price fixed for common group of paddy. The procurement agencies including FCI have been instructed to procure the paddy/rice strictly in accordance with the single grade specification of paddy/rice issued by the Government of India for the kharif marketing season 1996-97 for Central Pool under the MSP.

गेहूं का कम उत्पादन और उसका निर्यात

172. **श्रीमती मालती शर्मा:**
श्री राजनाथ सिंह:

क्या **खाद्य** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान दिनांक 13 जनवरी, 1997 को दैनिक जागरण में "गेहूं घोटाले की रकम दो सौ करोड़ हुई" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह सच है कि पिछले वर्ष के दौरान गेहूं का कम उत्पादन हुआ और इस प्रकार गोदामों में कम मात्रा में गेहूं भेजा गया। परन्तु इसके बावजूद सरकार ने गेहूं का निर्यात किया और बाद में सरकार को उसका आयात करना पड़ा; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं और कितनी मात्रा में गेहूं निर्यात किया गया, इससे कितनी विदेशी मुद्रा अर्जित हुई तथा गेहूं के आयात के लिए कितनी व्यय किया गया?

खाद्य मंत्री तथा नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री (श्री देवेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) और (ग) जून, 1996 में यह अनुमान लगाया गया था कि रबी फसल 1995-96 में गेहूं का